



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*

**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
Northampton, MA**

Meeting Date: October 3, 2019

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting will take place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:05 pm.

1. Meeting Called To Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting

A. Minutes Of September 19, 2019

Documents:

[09-19-2019_finance committee minutes.pdf](#)

4. Financial Orders

A. 19.145 An Order To Authorize Surplussing 593 Elm Street And Leasing For Child Advocacy Purposes

Documents:

[19.145 an order to authorize surplussing 593 elm street and leasing for child advocacy purposes.pdf](#)

B. 19.146 An Order To Authorize Payment Of Prior Year Bills

Documents:

[19.146 an order to authorize payment of prior year bills.pdf](#)

C. 19.148 An Order To Authorize Borrowing \$1.5 Million For Paving Projects

Documents:

[19.148 an order to authorize borrowing 1.5 million for paving projects.pdf](#)

5. New Business

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

6. Adjourn

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**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
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Meeting Date: September 19, 2019

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 7:09 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy (Chair), Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge and Gina-Louise Sciarra. Also present from the City Council were Dennis Bidwell, William H. Dwight, Alisa Klein, Jim Nash and Ryan O'Donnell.
3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
 - A. **Minutes of September 5, 2019**
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of September 5, 2019. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
 - A. **19.130 An Order To Increase Energy And Sustainability Revolving Fund Threshold From \$150,000 To \$250,000**
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

The order is actually a request from Chris Mason, the city's energy officer, Mayor Narkewicz advised. Central Services will be doing some large energy projects. Councilors may have heard the good news that Northampton received a major green communities' grant of \$250,000, and the utility company will be contributing additional funds. The limit was originally set at \$150,000 but Mr. Mason said given the funds that will be going in and out for these projects he wanted to see if it could be raised to \$250,000. They will be adding the sale of some additional Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC's) to the fund as well. Mr. Mason works with the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC) to vet energy

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sustainability projects. Funds are directly derived from SREC's or Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) credits and then put back into projects.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

B. 19.133 An Order For FY2020 Budget Transfers

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded.

The request is to reallocate some funds originally allocated to salaries in Human Resources (HR) to the OM line item for a MUNIS project, Mayor Narkewicz explained. A member of the HR staff recently left to become the HR director at Smith Vocational School upon the retirement of the director there. They have been thinking about how they want to reallocate resources within the office. One of the top priorities of the finance director and HR director is to work on some updates and workplace efficiencies within the MUNIS software. The idea is to allocate some additional funds to have Randy take on some of these projects. MUNIS will be moving to a new dashboard system and adding some new features that will allow users to be more efficient. The HR director is in support of holding off on this position and allocating it toward consultant services.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

C. 19.134 An Order To Appropriate Stabilization Funds To Police Station Remediation

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

This is a transfer as the order said, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. He discussed the background in executive session, he reminded.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

D. 19.135 An Order To Suspend Parking Fees On Certain Days

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

This is a recurring request they have made the last several years. They are trying to get it in motion as the holidays are approaching.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

5. New Business

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

*Contact: D. Murphy @ david.murphy8@comcast.net
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City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

October 3, 2019

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

19.145 An Order

to Authorize Surplussing 593 Elm Street and Leasing for Child Advocacy Purposes

Ordered, that

Whereas, the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) Board of Trustees has custody and control of a certain improved parcel located at 593 Elm Street which is currently leased to the Northwestern Children’s Advocacy Project, the lease for which expires December 31, 2019; and

Whereas, on September 17, 2019 the SVAHS Board of Trustees voted unanimously to surplus a five year leasehold interest in the building; and

Whereas, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, s. 16 requires the approval of the City Council for disposition of any interest in real estate; and

Whereas, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, s. 3 requires approval of the City Council for a lease of a school building not in actual school use;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

The Mayor is authorized to enter into a five year lease of 593 Elm Street running from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025, for child advocacy purposes and to execute all documents reasonably necessary to carry out this Order. The SVAHS Board of Trustees shall sign the lease agreement to confirm its approval of the terms and conditions thereof.

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

October 3, 2019

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

19.146 An Order to Authorize Payment of Prior Year Bills

Ordered, that

That the Council authorize payment of \$18,842.59 in prior fiscal year bills (FY2019) incurred by various departments:

CBS Copiers (June 2019 invoice)	\$199.00
Ford of Northampton (May 2019 invoice)	\$ 68.59
K. Levitch Associates (February and March 2019 invoices)	\$1,925.00
Nicolai Law Group (May and June 2019 invoices)	\$16,650.00

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council,

October 3, 2019

Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

19.148 An Order to Authorize Borrowing \$1.5 Million for Paving Projects

Ordered, that

the sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of roadway engineering, design and reconstruction, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet such appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow such amount under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.